

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A plate element for a fuel cell stack in a monopolar arrangement, comprising:

a frame region and at least one inner region which is enclosed by the frame region,

a plurality of webs which extend from the frame region into the at least one inner region and define, in the at least one inner region, a flow guidance structure which is formed by recesses between the webs, such that fluid regions within anode pairs of the fuel cell stack are not separated and such that fluid regions within cathode pairs of the fuel cell stack are not separated, and

at least four bore holes in the frame region, of which at least two are connected with the flow guidance structure,

wherein the plate element is made as a laminate of an insulating layer and two conductive layers which embed the insulating layer as if in a sandwich, such that the anodes and cathodes within the anode and cathode pairs are electrically insulated from each other.

2. (original) A plate element according to Claim 1 in which the flow guidance structure contains at least one meandering flow channel.

3. (previously presented) A plate element according to Claim 1 which consists of a conductive material.
4. (original) A plate element according to Claim 3 which consists of a metal or a metallic compound.
5. (previously presented) A plate element according to Claim 1 which consists of an insulating material.
6. (previously presented) A plate element according to Claim 1 which is made as a laminate of a conductive layer and an insulating layer.
7. (canceled)
8. (previously presented) A plate element according to Claim 1 with at least one rib which extends from the frame region outwards.
9. (original) A plate element according to Claim 8 with ribs on at least two opposite sides of the frame region.
10. (original) A plate element according to Claim 9 in which the ribs are positioned offset to each other on opposite sides of the frame region.
11. (previously presented) A fuel cell stack assembly, comprising:

a membrane electrode unit which is connected at least on one side with the conductive side of a plate element according to Claim 1.
12. (previously presented) A plate element according to Claim 2 which consists of a conductive material.

13. (previously presented) A plate element according to claim 2 which consists of an insulating material.

14. (previously presented) A plate element according to Claim 2 which is made as a laminate of a conductive layer and an insulating layer.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A plate element according to Claim 2 with at least one rib which extends from the frame region outwards.

17. (previously presented) A plate element according to Claim 3 with at least one rib which extends from the frame region outwards.

18. (previously presented) A plate element according to Claim 5 with at least one rib which extends from the frame region outwards.

19. (previously presented) A plate element according to Claim 6 with at least one rib which extends from the frame region outwards.

20. (previously presented) A plate element according to Claim 7 with at least one rib which extends from the frame region outwards.